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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvia)

DATE DISTR. 6 June 1950

SUBJECT Parachute Unit in Riga

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1. The parachute barracks were located about 1,000 feet west of the Dvina River on the street leading to a wooden bridge which crossed the river downstream from the pontoon bridge (see Annex 2). A church was south of the barracks, the meat plant north of them.
2. The four-story brick barracks, about 200 x 200 feet, had a small yard.
3. The barracks were occupied by 300 to 400 soldiers, predominantly young classes, who were drafted in 1947 or 1948 and were trained by veterans of World War II. The soldiers were equipped with short rifles.
4. The soldiers were frequently seen marching to the airfield. Instruction and rifle training were given at the barracks.
5. The soldiers wore blue-bordered dark brown epaulets with crossed propellers. Almost all the instructors wore war decorations and the parachute badge. According to civilians, this badge was awarded after 15 jumps (see Annex 1).

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Comment:

Although this is the first information on a parachute unit (presumably a battalion) in RIGA, it appears credible. From the data contained in the report, the assignment of this unit cannot be determined.

Annex: Soviet Parachute Insignia.
Location of Parachute Barracks in RIGA.

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